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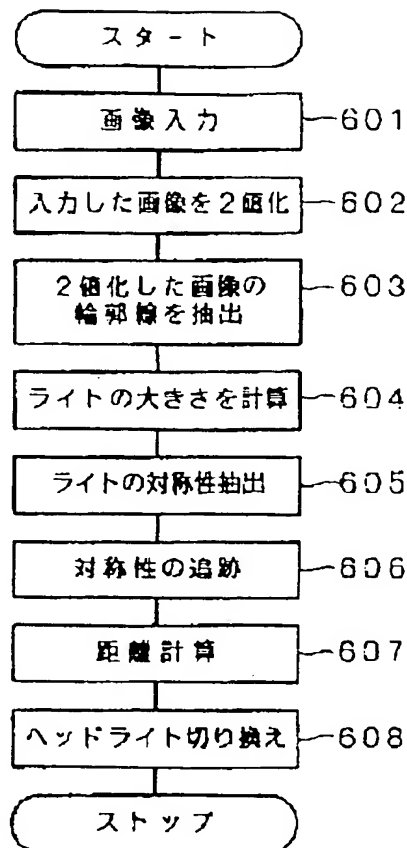
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TITLE : VEHICLE RECOGNIZING DEVICE FOR NIGHT



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To recognize another vehicle by detecting light emitted by the vehicle at night without the erroneous recognition of a street light or the like.

CONSTITUTION: In a headlight switching device according to this invention, when the front image of a vehicle is inputted (Step 601), the image is binarized (Step 602), the outline is extracted (Step 603); the size of a bright part (light) is obtained (Step 604), and a pair having symmetry is extracted on the basis thereof (Step 605). In the image obtained after predetermined time, the symmetricalness of the pair is pursued, and when it can be pursued, the light is adopted as the light source of the other vehicle (Step 606) and an inter-vehicle distance is obtained (Step 607), and when the inter-vehicle distance decreases in succession, it is determined that the other vehicle is an on-coming vehicle, and a headlight is switched over to a low beam (Step 608). Accordingly, the headlight is appropriately switched over without erroneously recognizing a street light or the like for the light source of the other vehicle.

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